

the trust fund remains solvent. But that can be done with the Democratic proposal without the radical changes in Medicare that the Republican leadership is proposing.

#### SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, 5 short years. That is the amount of time that is remaining in the Medicare trust fund before it goes completely bankrupt. The trust fund already has started to lose billions, and unless we make some needed changes, Medicare will be completely bankrupt within 5 years. So the situation is even worse than was predicted by the Clinton administration last year.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many people in my district who depend on Medicare and who expect to be around 5 years from now. My own parents are on Medicare. It would be an absolute outrage if political posturing and political games prevent us from saving a program that so many Americans depended upon.

Just as politics ought to stop at the water's edge, politics when it comes to Medicare absolutely should stop in this House. Even President Clinton admitted all those attack ads about Republicans alleging cutting Medicare are absolutely not true.

It is time that rather than everybody attacking everybody about who is cutting Medicare, Republicans and Democrats ought to work together to save Medicare.

#### TAXED OFF TO THE LIMIT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the IRS dropped in on Ed and Martha Collins of East Aurora, NY. The IRS demanded every single receipt on their 1993 return. Even though the Collinses had every single receipt to corroborate that 1993 return, the IRS was not satisfied and demanded \$540. And the reason they said was they had conducted an economic reality audit and the IRS determined that Collins Bed and Breakfast spent too much money on food, laundry, and cleaning services for their guests.

Unbelievable. Tell me, Mr. Speaker, what did the IRS expect? Weiners and beans? Paper towels? Porta potties? Beam me up. What is next. Will the IRS determine what the toilet tissue needs are of the American family? No wonder the American people are taxed off. Taxed off to the limit. Congress should do something about the IRS.

#### MEDICARE GOING BANKRUPT FASTER THAN EXPECTED

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 Medicare trustees' report is expected to be released today and all indications are the news will be worse than last year's report—Medicare is going bankrupt faster and sooner than expected.

In late April, the Congressional Budget Office released data that showed while the 1995 trustee's report predicted a \$5 billion surplus in 2002, the fund is now expected to be \$86 billion in the hole. The Republican majority passed a plan to simplify and strengthen Medicare and fight waste and fraud, all while increasing Medicare spending. But with the flash of his veto-happy pen, President Clinton killed these Medicare reforms.

In just a year's time, President Clinton's choice to mislead America's seniors through demagoguery and campaign scare tactics has resulted in a multibillion-dollar Medicare shortfall. Shame on him.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS SHOULD NOT PAY FOR SPECIAL INTEREST TAX BREAKS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, why is Medicare running into financial trouble sooner than we thought? Because the new majority is more interested in raiding Medicare for special interest tax breaks than in buckling down and coming up with a bipartisan plan to keep Medicare solvent.

Instead of proposing changes in Medicare that would lead to greater solvency of the trust fund, the Gingrich-Dole majority proposed limiting physician choice, draining the system of healthy participants through medical savings accounts, and eliminating laws against fraud in the health care industry.

That is no way to save Medicare.

We can avoid the dire predictions of the Medicare trustees. We should work together.

Democrats proposed a plan to keep Medicare solvent while maintaining the guarantee of health care for older Americans.

Our plan keeps Medicare in the black for years to come without the devastating cuts that make seniors see red. What we need around here is the courage to do what's right. What we don't need are special interest tax breaks paid for by our Nation's seniors.

#### TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN AMERICA

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind this body that the travel and

tourism industry is the Nation's second largest employer, providing more than 14,000,000 jobs; the third largest retail sales industry, and in 1994, travel and tourism generated more than \$58 billion in tax revenues.

Mr. Speaker, dollars that tourists spend trickle down to local communities and benefit the whole U.S. economy. The travel and tourism industry is diverse and touches every sector of our society, from business to the arts to education.

While travel and tourism is growing throughout the world, the U.S. market share is on the decline. With the closing of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration [USTTA] in April, promotion of travel and tourism has dropped to zero.

We must revitalize this dynamic industry by passing H.R. 2579 during the 104th Congress. This important bill would merge the resources of the private sector and the Federal Government to improve the promotion of international travel and tourism to the United States. The legislation would provide the means to encourage international travelers to visit the United States.

Federal support for travel and tourism would protect jobs and promote a healthy American economy for the 21st century.

#### TOURISM VITAL TO GUAM'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Mr. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2579, introduced by Congressman TOBY ROTH. I commend Representative ROTH for his work on this legislation and for improving the visibility and understanding of travel and tourism issues in this Congress.

The tourism industry is Guam's lifeblood and the engine of economic growth on our island. Last year, 1.3 million visitors came to Guam and 2 million are expected to arrive by the end of the decade. The visitor industry last year contributed to the employment of about 19,000 people on Guam and represented about 40 percent of the private sector work force. For an island of 140,000, our economy has grown to over \$3 billion. And the visitor industry is vital to our continued economic growth.

A Federal tourism strategy is the key to the long-term health of the tourist industry, and, with the closing of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, there is currently a vacuum in this area. The National Tourism Organization established under H.R. 2579 would not only bring more visitors to the United States, but it would steer them toward American companies for every part of their trip. An aggressive plan to attract international tourists